

2012 EPA Senior Leadership Retreat

Session 3 – Transformation (Gina, Stephanie, Jared)

Partnerships: Why should we partner with outside entities? Who are our natural partners? How do we go about doing it? Do we want more partnerships, better partnerships, or both?

1. Federal Partnerships - strategically utilize existing federal expertise and workforce, especially given budget shortfalls which will impede hiring experts and/or contractors/consultants.

Examples: Clare Mendelsohn (to EPA from DOD)
Sustainability or Green Build expert from EPA to DOD
Expertise, equipment and funding from sister agencies such as NASA and NOAA

2. Delegatee Agencies - where we have a strong partnership with tribes/states, decrease our oversight/increase the activities/actions that we delegate. We could also "workshare" more with strong states/tribes.

Examples: Duck Valley Tribe has an award-winning Integrated Solid Waste Management Program

3. NGOs - strengthen our relationships with key environmental groups to maximize productive output and minimize defensive lawsuits.

4. Businesses – increase outreach and strengthen collaborations to encourage implementation of sustainable practices to align with EPA's goals and to demonstrate environmental leadership in their field.

Examples: -Business Roundtables with Tech Titans, Thought Leaders, and industry experts
-UPS and Fed Ex agree to convert significant portion of fleet to electric vehicles in severe nonattainment areas

5. Universities – strengthen collaboration to share funding, faculty expertise, state-of-the-art facilities and students (who are also nextGen potential EPA hires)

Examples: - MOUs for student internships and to increase collaboration with faculty
-Food Recovery Challenge

6. Local Government – reach out to Mayors, County officials and others who are the closest “boots on the ground” and often have the best access to crucial information and important authorities that the EPA does not have (e.g. zoning and siting authorities)

7. Within EPA: better utilize resources, existing expertise and projects

Examples: - Closer collaboration/integration with ORD on funding, scientific endeavors, etc
-Workshare with other regions (e.g. Regional Judicial Officers, NEPA)

Obstacles to successful partnerships: What are the barriers which hinder or block the success of partnership efforts?

a. Lack of a comprehensive (laundry list) view of what a successful strategic partnership looks like.

b. Legal obstacles, including constraints posed by ethics and appropriations laws.

- c. Lack of communication/coordination within EPA/government, as to who has an existing partnership or is contemplating a new one.
- d. Lack of a comprehensive partnership database.

Model for partnerships in the second term: SC2

Strive for partnerships which are geographically focussed and involve multiple parties at all levels of government and external stakeholders. The successful SC2 model partnership focusses on the following goals: improving the way the federal government does business, providing assistance and support , working with local communities to find “ground up”, not “top down” solutions, and developing broad partnerships for growth.